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20 June 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Mr. Burnham's Speech on Political Warfare,  
Including Propaganda

*Orig. to DCI  
copy to DDP  
by hand 13 DD1  
23 June 1958*

Mr. Burnham included in his definition of political warfare practically all forms of warfare short of open use of force—economic warfare, psychological warfare, etc.

The gist of his remarks was that the U.S. had no overall plan and no overall objective for the conduct of political warfare, and as a result little had been accomplished although much money had been spent. He advocated preparation of an overall plan, the assignment of specific missions, and the organization of task forces to accomplish them; e.g., a task force to separate Albania from the Bloc by a certain date.

His speech was well prepared, clever, and well delivered, with many colorful phrases. He was roundly applauded. My own impression was that he disregarded entirely the probable consequences of some of the measures he advocated, the difficulty of coordinating economic warfare, psychological warfare, covert

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operations, etc. in a democracy, and the limitations of political warfare.

I believe the initial impression left on his audience was good, but that this impression did not last long, and that most of them felt that although some improvement could be made in the coordination of the efforts of USIA, ICA, CIA, and all government agencies engaged in political warfare, Burnham's suggestions were impractical and his general indictment of U.S. failure in the field of political warfare overly severe. I do not remember if he made direct reference to CIA or not; I took it to be a general indictment of USIA, ICA, CIA, etc.

This symposium ended with a discussion by a panel of the questions raised in the formal speeches. The only mention of Burnham's speech made by the panelists that I recall, was that Mr. William Foster stated he disagreed with Mr. Burnham's statement to the effect that all U.S. efforts in the field of political war had failed, and cited Yugoslavia as a notable success. I believe that if Burnham's speech had made a deep impression, there would have been more discussion of it by the panel.

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